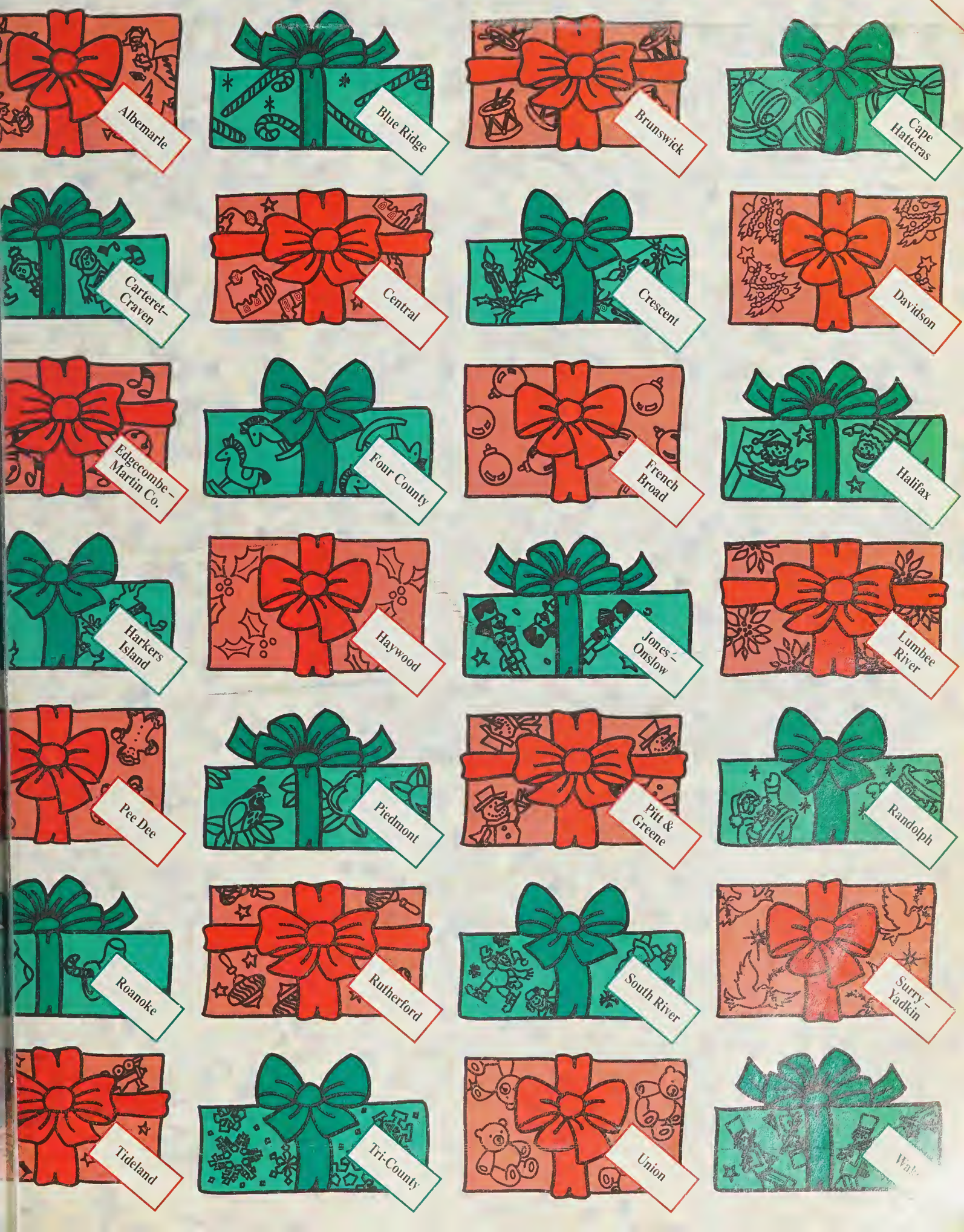
Volume 25, No. 12, December 1993

CAROLINA COUNTRY

Satellite TV Update
Pages 10-12



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Wayne D. Keller

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Editor
Michael E.C. Gery

Special Projects Editor
Owen Bishop

Business/Advertising Coordinator
Monica Russell

Graphic Designer/Artist
Katherine Fowler

Staff Writer
Kim Whorton

Member
Audit Bureau of Circulations

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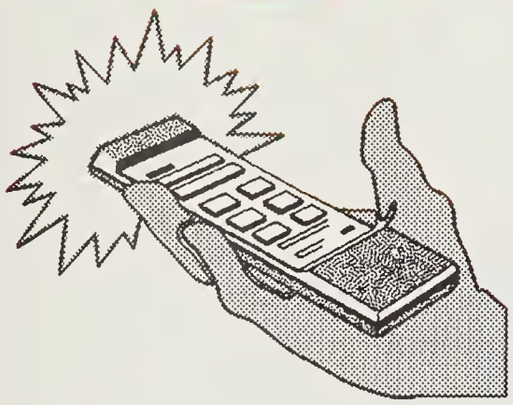

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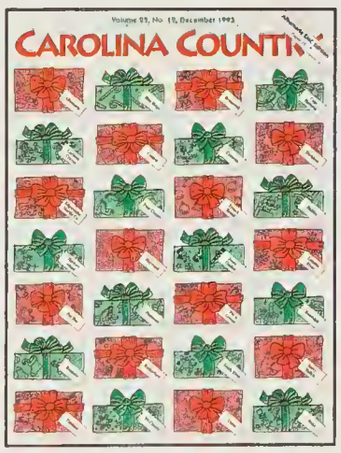

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Safe and sound in seconds

By J. Michael Davis

J. Michael Davis

It was a dark and stormy day in October. But our people are used to such conditions.

These very conditions, in fact, test the knowledge and endurance of any crew that works on power lines. Crews from our electric cooperatives work during and after storms, in the middle of the night, on the coldest and hottest of days.

Not only do such conditions present a test of skill and endurance, they also present dangerous circumstances. People can get hurt when the weather is rough. That is why our co-ops, our state association and the crews themselves concentrate so strongly on safety — all day, every day.

On that gloomy October morning in Raleigh, 25 of our finest performers faced a different kind of test: in front of five judges and a crowd of spectators, they demonstrated how well they can work. It was the statewide Pole-Top Rescue Competition, held every two years to showcase and reward the best performances in a simulated rescue situation. Each co-op had held its own competition and sent winners and their alternates to Raleigh.

Allyson Britt

Here was the situation: in pouring rain on a 40-degree day, a crew member notices a fellow worker in trouble halfway up a 35-foot pole. For the contest, a life-size dummy weighing over 100 pounds plays the role of the distressed worker. The rescuer must scrupulously follow 19 steps in a procedure he has studied and practiced over and over again. It is a procedure developed by the Carolina Electric Cooperatives Job Training and Safety program, designed to rescue a victim in the quickest and safest way. Five of the program's safety experts watch very closely, one from the vantage point of a truck's bucket raised 30 feet from the ground. The rescuer is timed.

Here, generally, is the procedure: the rescuer calls to the victim, runs to a service truck 50 feet away, calls the co-op office with a "May Day" alert, reports the location, carries tools to the pole, dons the proper equipment, checks the pole, climbs the pole, attends to the victim, hammers a heavy screwdriver into the pole, attaches a hand line to the victim, lowers the victim to the ground, descends the pole, removes gloves and climbing gear, examines the victim, and tries to resuscitate the victim.

Alan Grooms did this flawlessly in 2:2.91 minutes. The First Class Tree Trimmer from French Broad EMC won the 1993 competition, a $500 prize, and the admiration of the entire Carolina Electric Cooperatives family.

I watched from underneath a tent canopy along with fellow employees, safety directors, co-op managers, family members, and photographers. I was proud of our own Jesse Buford, First Class Lineman at Tri-County EMC, who completed the exercise in under 2:43.

I was proud of Ernest Chavis, the reigning two-time champion from Lumbee River EMC, who finished third this year and proclaimed during the award ceremony, "I just want to tell Alan that getting to Number 1 is hard enough but keeping it is even harder."

Each time I see this pole-top rescue procedure, I am proud not only of the people who perform it, but also of all the policies we follow very strictly to assure that all our work is done safely and effectively. The policies and practices are based on national and state standards for electric cooperatives. We continuously re-examine and revise them when necessary. We send our linemen through four levels of rigorous training where they learn safety and rescue procedures along with the details of pole and line work. And every day in our offices, warehouses, vehicles and in the field, we consider safety and concern for others as important as how well we do our jobs.

J. Michael Davis is general manager of Tri-County Electric Membership Corporation, Dudley.

To the rescue!

By Michael E.C. Gery • Photos by Duane Salstrand

Mike Cudd of Rutherford EMC: "Kool! you all right?"

e climbs the pole.

Would Ernest Chavis become a "three-peat" champion?

He had won the last two Pole-Top Rescue Competitions, in 1989 and 1991, and set the record by completing the procedure in 1:48.78 minutes. Was the man from Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation unbeatable?

Breaking the record was out of the question Oct. 11 because of driving rain and 40-degree weather on the grounds of Carolina Electric Cooperatives in Raleigh.

Harris Morrison, the veteran lineman from Central EMC, finished in 2:25.62. Accepting congratulations, he grinned and pointed to Chavis: "Wait 'til he goes."

To qualify, all the competitors had won in similar contests held by their cooperatives this year or were selected as alternates. The state competition, held every two years, demonstrates the skill and speed of line crews.

The "victim" is a 105-pound dummy known as Kool. Upon recognizing Kool in trouble partway up a pole, each rescuer must radio the situation, rush tools to the pole, inspect the pole, climb to the victim, try to revive him, and rig a hand line to lower Kool to the ground for further resuscitation. It requires deft execution of some 19 steps. Five judges watch every move.

Ernest Chavis, who stands almost six and a half feet tall, thrilled the crowd with his speed and grace. He rescued Kool in 2:7.43. Some figured it was over.

Then came Alan Grooms of French Broad EMC in Marshall. He stunned onlookers as he ran expertly through the drill and heard the timer call, "Two minutes, 2.91 seconds. No penalties."

Six more men rescued Kool. Paul Quillen of Carteret-Craven Electric in Morehead City finished in 2:6.65 to place second.

But Grooms finished on top. The first man to praise him was Ernest Chavis.

3. He attaches the hand line to lower Kool.

4. He works to revive the victim.

First-run films in down-home movie theaters

By Sharon O'Malley

75 percent of Carmike theaters are located in North Carolina.

Duane Salstrand

Sanford Jordan: "We have always tried real hard to become part of the community."

Sanford Jordan remembers when a youngster could buy refuge from a lonely Saturday afternoon by pushing nine shiny pennies across a ticket-taker's counter.

He's 80 years old, and plans to keep working as manager of the Raleigh, N.C., area theaters owned by Carmike Cinemas. "I enjoy my work, my health is good and my boss hasn't told me I have to stop," says Jordan, who began his career as a theater usher in Salisbury in 1929.

Ushers 50 years ago "wore monkey suits," Jordan says. "People would come in and we'd say, 'Good evening,' and we'd show them to the seats, walking down the aisle with a flashlight behind us."

He rose to managerial ranks and worked downtown cinemas in Concord, Lexington, Greensboro, Goldsboro, Charlotte, High Point and Hickory —most of them gone now— before coming to Raleigh. He may know more about movie theaters and their patrons than anyone in North Carolina.

One regular moviegoer, Jordan remembers, suffered occasional epileptic seizures. Each time the man came to the theater, Jordan would keep an eye on him. And the man trusted only Sanford Jordan to help him during a seizure.

Mike Patrick, president of Carmike Cinemas, Inc., appreciates managers like Jordan and wants to encourage them. "He knows everybody in town," Patrick says. "People feel like they can drop their children off at the show and go have a

quiet dinner. You can't just do that everywhere."

It could be that philosophy that has earned Carmike Cinemas higher operating margins than any of the larger theater chains, including United Artists, AMC, General Cinema and Cineplex Odeon.

"If we closed the year now it would be a record year for Carmike," Patrick said in September. His company netted more than $10 million in the first nine months of 1993. That's nearly double what it made during the same period two years ago.

That money didn't come from moviegoers in big markets like New York or Los Angeles. Carmike's 1,639 screens are in 260 small- and medium-sized markets. Raleigh, Chapel Hill and Durham are among the largest. But 75 percent of Carmike's theaters are located in North Carolina.

Patrick says small-town people keep the theaters thriving. "People like to go out," he says, but added, "There's not much to do in these towns. Our biggest competition is high school football."

But the real secret to Carmike's small-town success is innovative management. When Michael Patrick's father, Carl, started out in theater management, his son would sit on his desk and tell his dad what movies the kids wanted to see. But soon after Carl bought a small theater chain in 1982, he figured computers could help schedule shows. The company developed a computer system from the chip up. "We're not talking software here, we're talking a computer," Patrick says.

That computer links each theater, no matter how geographically isolated, with Carmike's Columbus, Ga., headquarters. From there, executives do the administrative work for the theaters. "From Columbus, I can tell you how many boxes of popcorn or Frisinettes we sold in Pullman, Washington, last night," Patrick says. He also knows how many tickets were sold each night at each theater, and can decide right away whether to pull a movie.

"If we misjudge a picture," Patrick says, "we need to know it that night."

The sophisticated computer frees theater managers from paperwork and accounting and cuts down on the number of staff at each location. It also keeps Carmike's overhead to just 2.5 percent of sales. Costs run as high as 6 percent of sales at most other chains.

A. T. Vinson, who works six days a week as manager of Carmike's Opelika, Ala., theater, says the system frees him to concentrate on his customers and on his staff of part-time ushers and cashiers.

Patrick believes it also allows employees to keep low-stress jobs well into their golden years, making the theaters more familiar and appealing to locals. At 73, Vinson is celebrating his 21st anniversary as a theater manager, and his 57th in the theater business. "He'll die and still run the theater the next day," says his boss, Michael Patrick.

The local theater-going audience is Patrick's focus. "We know our patrons extremely well," he says.

"There's an accent to every community," Patrick explains. So he knows that the "military and patriotic" residents of Jacksonville, N.C., would rather see "Rambo" than "Sleepless in Seattle." He predicted that Southern moviegoers would give a lukewarm reception to Robert Redford's scenic "The River Runs Through It," while Montanans would make it "a gigantic picture." He was right: "It was the biggest picture up there in a couple of years, other than 'Jurassic Park.'"

"We have always tried real hard to become part of the community," says Sanford Jordan, who can recall times when North Carolina towns had no shopping centers on their outskirts and downtown cinemas were the norm. "We want to be known and understood that this [company] wants to be part of us and wants to help our community and wants to entertain us. By and large, this is one of the successes of Mike, that this is his philosophy."

One thing Carmike executives understand, Jordan says, is that small-town people live different lifestyles and have different tastes than people who live in cities.

His experience tells him that small-town people prefer comedies and action pictures to love stories. The summertime thriller, "The Fugitive," for example, fared better than the quirky "Sleepless in Seattle."

And rural folks won't buy tickets for sexually explicit movies; in fact, none of Carmike's theaters run X-rated shows. "Smaller-town people," Jordan explains, "I guess they're shocked more easily. They may look at it as immoral."

Working in small-town markets brings other challenges to the chain.

When "Raiders of the Lost Ark," a blockbuster Harrison Ford film, was released in the 1980s, for example, rural audiences ignored it. The hype that had city moviegoers waiting in long lines to see it simply didn't reach the rural markets until weeks after the picture was released.

Carmike opened the film in all of its theaters, but pulled it from the small towns. It began local marketing efforts, and after three weeks, re-released it. The second time around, "Raiders" was a rural hit.

Local businesses are usually glad to pitch in to market films, Patrick says. Carmike ran contests with prizes in Main Street scuba diving shops when "Jaws" was released. The shops were grateful for the extra traffic.

His theater chain may be a big one, but Mike Patrick knows the value in keeping in touch with local communities: "In small towns you have that one-on-one."

Sharon O'Malley is a Greenbelt, Md.-based freelance writer.

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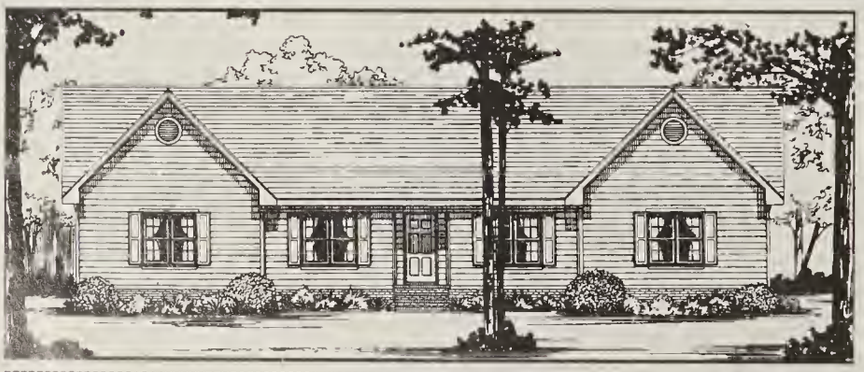

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Holiday safety tips from your electric cooperative:

- Unplug lights when you go out or to bed.
- Use waterproof outdoor cords for outside decorations.
- Plug outdoor lights only into ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlets designed for outdoor use.
- Match plugs with outlets. Don't force a 3-pronged plug into a 2-pronged extension cord. Use adaptors only in wall outlets where they can be grounded.
- Replace broken bulbs.
- Don't use lights on metallic artificial trees.
- Don't touch electric cords or appliances with wet hands.
- Don't place cords near heat or water.
- Don't overload outlets.
- Don't run cords through doorways or under rugs.
- Make sure lights and electric decorations bear the UL mark from Underwriters Laboratory.
- Miniature lights use only about 18 watts per set —considerably less energy per lamp than larger bulbs.

The House Before Christmas

'Twas the house before Christmas and all through the night
Not a light bulb was burning, except the night light.
So the children all nestled and snug in the sack
Could sneak down the stairs and find their way back.

The lights were strung on the tree with care
In hopes that Saint Nicholas soon would be there.
Their cords were not frayed, the wires not twisted.
They were not placed near water; they were UL listed.

The outdoor lights were also intact.
The cords were heavy, the bulbs were not cracked.
The outlets were not overloaded with plugs.
The cords were not placed under doorways and rugs.

As Dad, in his nightshirt, and Mom, in her gown,
Were ready for bed and settling down,
The kids wandered in, away from their beds,
As visions of video games danced in their heads.
"What's all the clatter? What is the matter?
"You should be nestled and snug in your beds!"

The youngest one said she wanted to know
How Santa would know where the presents
would go.
"Our lights are all off all over the house!
"Not a creature is stirring, not even a mouse!
"How will he see?" she asked innocently.
"How will he find his way to the tree?"

Mother could see her daughter was sad.
She hugged her and soothingly said, "Ask your Dad."
Dad rose to the window and gazed at the dark.
(He wondered himself where Santa would park.)
"Come, Donner! Come, Rudolph! Come, Blitzen!
Come, Dancer!
"Give me a signal! Give me an answer!"

Finally he turned to his daughter and said,
"Santa Claus knows how to drive that sled.
"And Rudolph, with his nose so bright,
"Won't he guide the sleigh at night?
"And when he is here, he'll surely sight
The glow from our security light!"

Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good light.

— Michael E.C. Gery, with apologies to Clement Clarke Moore (1779-1863)

Digital television: Coming to a screen near you

By Douglas Gunster

Rural utility customers will be among the first television viewers in the nation to have access to a new, affordable, 150-plus channel digital television system being launched throughout the U.S. in 1994 by Hughes Communications and members of the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC).

The direct broadcast satellite (DBS) service, called DirecTv™, will enter consumers' homes via an 18-inch satellite dish antenna being manufactured by Thomson Consumer Electronics, which also makes RCA-brand equipment.

According to Thomson, the lightweight, stationary dish is easy to install and can be conveniently mounted on porch railings, windowsills, rooftops or anywhere that provides a stable, flat surface. Channels already signed to the system include popular cable mainstays like CNN, The Disney Channel and The Discovery Channel. Prices for the complete hardware package —dish, receiver/decoder and remote control— will start at around $700, not including installation.

NRTC chief executive officer Bob Phillips compared DirecTv's potential impact on the rural American lifestyle to that which took place with the establishment of the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) and the introduction of electricity and telephone service to rural homes in the 1930s and 40s.

Until now, according to Phillips, rural America's television choices were extremely limited. Many rural areas are not adequately served by over-the-air or cable television, he said. The only option open to most of these consumers has been large-dish, C-band satellite systems.

These systems provide good service, but their cost has kept them out of many peoples' grasp.

"During the Gulf War," said Phillip "Their were rural Americans who had less information about their sons and daughters in Saudi Arabia than Saddam Hussein, because he had access t CNN and they did not. DBS is going t make sure that never happens again."

The direct broadcast satellite dish is not difficult to install.

The Technology

The idea of DBS ha been around for a long time. In the early 1980s, the Federal Communications Commission set aside part of the radio spectrum for the provision of small-dish, direct-to-home satellite service. At that time, Hughes Communications was awarded a position at one of the most desirable satellite orbital locations availab —one which allows a sin gle DBS satellite to broadcast to the entire continental U.S. Becaus of technological limitations on channel capacit however, the DBS project had to be put on hold until now.

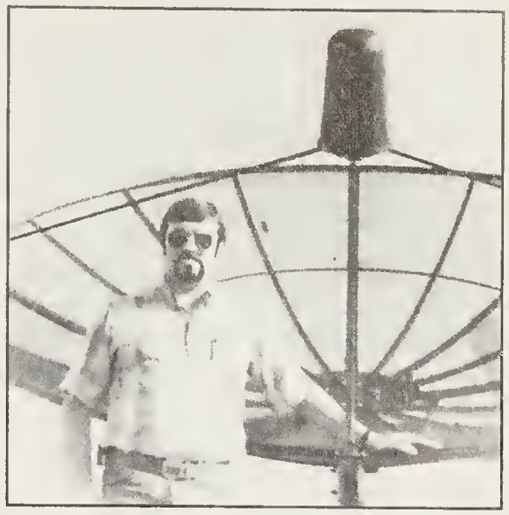
DBS should not be confused with t large dish satellite systems that have been dotting the rural American landscape for more than a decade. These dishes are considerably larger —five t 10 feet in diameter— and, because th contain moving parts, they are also more expensive. They scan the sky, picking up analog signals from variou

satellites that broadcast in the C-band spectrum. Because these satellites are situated in different orbital locations, the dishes must move to access the different feeds. In addition, because the C-band satellites are comparatively low-powered, the dishes used to receive their transmissions must be quite large to receive a clear signal.

The DBS satellites that Hughes Communications is constructing at its High Bay facility in Los Angeles are considerably more powerful than their C-band cousins. Each of Hughes' two HS 601 satellites —the first of which is scheduled to be launched this month— will carry 16 120-watt transponders. Comparable C-band satellites beam their signal to backyard dish owners at less than 16 watts.) This additional power will allow DirecTv's DBS viewers to access the system through a satellite dish no bigger than a large pizza. It will also ensure that, no matter where they live in the continental U.S., the pictures viewers receive will be largely free from rain-based and terrestrial interference, according to NRTC.

Additional power, however, is not the only difference between DBS and larger-dish systems. DirecTv will also be one of the first television systems of any kind —satellite or cable— to offer digital picture quality and CD-quality sound to home television viewers. In fact, it was the advent of this digital signal technology which finally made DirecTv an economically feasible reality for Hughes and its partners.

The programming (scheduled for spring 1994) will be a mix of cable, broadcast, pay-per-view movies, specials and live sports.



A conventional C-band satellite dish is five to 10 feet in diameter.

The Programming

The programming available to viewers of DirecTv's DBS system is scheduled to be a mix of cable, broadcast, pay-per-view movies, specials and live sports. The channels signed to the service so far include Cartoon Network, CNN, CNN International, Country Music Television, C-SPAN, C-SPAN 2, The Disney Channel, The Discovery Channel, E! Entertainment, The Family Channel, Headline News, The Learning Channel, The Nashville Network, The Sci-Fi Channel, Superstation TBS, Turner Classic Movies, Turner Network Television and USA Network. More programming announcements are expected soon.

In addition to cable channels, DirecTv has lined up Columbia Pictures, Sony Pictures Entertainment, TriStar International, Paramount Pictures, Universal Television and the Turner/MCM library to provide movies for its pay-per-view channels. Movies are scheduled to start every 15 to 30 minutes, meaning that viewers may not have to wait more than a few minutes for their movie to begin.

To navigate the sea of choices available to them through the service, viewers will use a new electronic programming guide. This guide will feature an on-screen television schedule giving viewers access to different programming grids showcasing DirecTv programming by subject. For example, a sports fan can call up a grid containing the sports programming available on DirecTv at a certain time, while someone hungry for a synopsis of the day's current events can get a list of news programming.

The equipment that DirecTv subscribers will use to access the service is being manufactured by Thomson Consumer Electronics and will be sold under the name Digital Satellite System™ (DSS™). The DSS equipment will include a receiver/decoder box, a remote control and the 18-inch dish antenna. The price of this equipment is projected to

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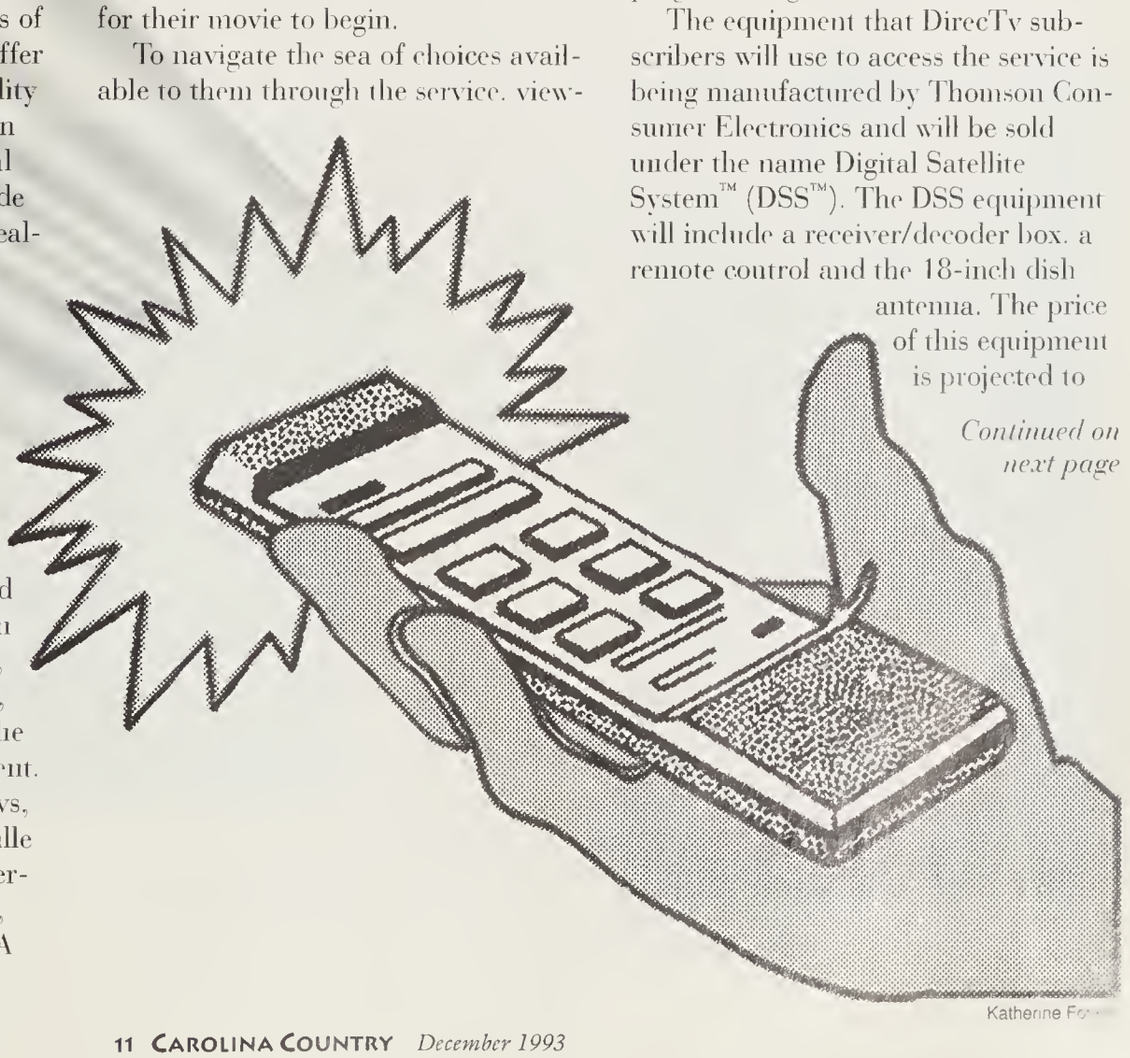


Katherine Fo

range from around $700 for a basic set-up to $899 for a deluxe unit which allows viewers to watch multiple televisions tuned to different channels, with the purchase of additional receivers.

The first DirecTv satellite is scheduled to be put into orbit this month, with the service scheduled to debut in the spring of 1994. Currently, Hughes is completing the final round of system tests on the DBS "bird" and preparing to ship it to French Guiana, where it will be put into orbit by Arianespace, one of the world's leading satellite launch providers.

Many NRTC member rural utilities will be marketing DirecTv to the areas they serve, something which Phillips says is only fitting given their history of bringing innovation to rural America.

"Many people remember the day their local utilities ushered in the modern era by bringing electric and telephone service to their homes," said Phillips. "Future generations are going to remember the day that those same organizations brought them DirecTv and made them part of the information age."

Douglas Gnuster is a writer-editor with the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative.

The Arianespace launch vehicle scheduled to carry the first DirecTv satellite into space from a French Guiana location.

PrimeWatch is the cooperative connection to emerging TV services

PrimeWatch, Inc., a subsidiary of Halifax Electric Membership Corporation, Enfield, is the only cooperative-based utility in North Carolina licensed at present to sell DirecTv™ programming and the 18-inch dish and receiver.

PrimeWatch already is enlisting customers for services, even though television programming itself is not scheduled to be available until spring 1994.

Formed in 1992, PrimeWatch is licensed to offer full hardware and program services in the Halifax EMC service area and beyond, including all of Halifax, Nash, Warren and Edgecombe counties. Negotiations are underway to offer full services in other North Carolina counties.

"We can sign up customers for the 18-inch dish in any county right now, whether a household has cable TV or not," says Rick Sanderson, general manager of PrimeWatch. "But we are still discussing what programming service we can offer outside the four counties where we are licensed so far."

The 18-inch dish antenna and DirecTv programming will be available through participating members of the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative, a national association of utility cooperatives. The dish and associated hardware also are expected to be sold at retail electronics outlets and other stores.

"The advantage of signing up with us," says Sanderson, "is that we speak the language of cooperatives. We have a reputation for reliable, quality customer service, and we are experienced in the satellite industry."

Other North Carolina electric cooperatives are members of NRTC, but only Halifax EMC has entered the DirecTv business. Sanderson hopes that consumer-members of other co-ops will contact PrimeWatch to inquire about DirecTv, especially because the changes in the industry will be rapid during the next year.

PrimeWatch, as a wholly-owned subsidiary of Halifax EMC, was a natural outgrowth of the co-op's service, Sanderson says. Halifax has been in the hardware and TV programming business for five years, offering satellite dish receivers, Rural TV programming, and customer service. The co-op has been on the cutting edge of emerging technology in the telecommunications industry. The formation of the PrimeWatch subsidiary in 1992, with former Halifax marketing director Sanderson as its general manager, was a move to consolidate the co-op's telecommunications and marketing services. In addition to satellite antenna systems, PrimeWatch also offers sales and installation of residential and commercial security systems and related customer service.

"As the technological opportunities present themselves, we will be there to help consumers," Sanderson says.

For example, Sanderson says, when considering the new 18-inch dish, consumers will have a choice of hiring a service, such as PrimeWatch, to install it, or buy and install it themselves. "We will offer first-class installation and training to use it," he says.

The TV programming itself will be sold on a subscription basis, like cable TV programming, through businesses licensed by the programming sources, such as DirecTv. PrimeWatch expects DirecTv subscriptions to start at $12.95 per month.

For more information about the PrimeWatch services, call 1-800-775-0068.

Do goat farms have a future here?

There are 20,000 to 30,000 goats on North Carolina farms, and the number is expanding, according to the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service.

Extension specialists say the state's environment is conducive to growing goats, but the market has not yet seen a surge in growth.

"Basically, we have small herds with many goats sold off one at a time to ethnic groups moving into our area, such as Mexicans and Jamaicans," says Matt Poore, a ruminant nutritionist associated with Cooperative Extension at N.C. State University.

Poore and others are trying to help farmers raise meat goats commercially and to organize them to sell the product here and in East Coast cities where demand is higher.

While the state's environment is good for goat farming, Poore said, most goats sold at auction are trucked north.

A packing plant was scheduled to open this fall in Bladenboro where some 800 goats and lambs, along with about 60 cattle, can be shipped weekly.

In addition to working with state farmers toward raising and processing goats, Cooperative Extension specialists are experimenting with different types of goats to breed with North Carolina goats. Some farmers are organizing to import Boer meat goat embryos from New Zealand. They are fast growing goats with good reproductive rates and more docility than other breeds, says Extension specialist Jim Green.

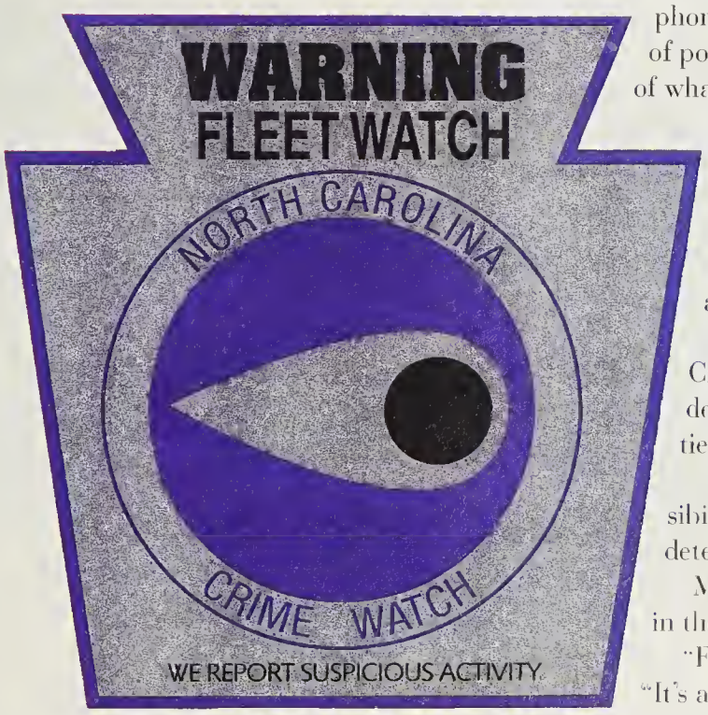
Green also pointed out that goats can be helpful in controlling weeds. "They prefer to eat shrubs and weeds instead of grass and clover," he said.

At the Mountain Research Station in Waynesville, a study is under way to renovate old pastures using goats instead of herbicides.

"Community Watch on wheels"

Carteret, Craven and Onslow counties have introduced a crime prevention program that will be promoted statewide by the North Carolina Department of Crime Control and Public Safety.

Called Fleet Watch, the program encourages businesses whose vehicles are equipped with cellular phones and two-way radios to help in law enforcement. By using a car phone, Fleet Watch observers can notify law enforcement officials of possible wrongdoing, and then provide them with a description of what happened and the location.



The program was the brainchild of Ron Collins, credit services collector at Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative, Morehead City.

Fleet Watch participants are trained how to observe and report a situation without becoming directly involved. They are identified by a Fleet Watch decal on their vehicles.

Richard Martin, crime prevention specialist for the N.C. Crime Prevention Division, said the decal may also serve as a deterrent to persons who are tempted to commit illegal activities.

"We stress to our Fleet Watch participants that their responsibility is to report the situation, not to become involved in the detention of any suspects," he said.

Martin said Fleet Watch is similar to other volunteer programs in the state.

"Fleet Watch is really Community Watch on wheels," he said. "It's an easy way for citizens to become involved in the fight against crime. We hope that the program will be adopted and implemented locally by telephone-equipped fleets across the state."

For more information, contact Richard Martin, Crime Prevention Division, P.O. Box 27687, Raleigh, N.C. 27611-7687, or call (919) 733-5522.

Continued on next page

"Marking Time" in the Albemarle region

Two historical photographs from each of the 10 counties served by the Museum of the Albemarle are published in the "Marking Time 1994" calendar issued by the museum.

The counties are Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Gates, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell and Washington.

The calendar is printed in black and white on a large format (11 by 13½ inches), and is marked with significant dates of the region's history.

The calendar costs $5. Copies can be mailed for an additional $2 each. Contact Museum of the Albemarle, 1116 U.S. Hwy. 17 South, Elizabeth City, N.C. 27909-9806, or call (919) 335-1453 or (919) 335-2987.

Fisherman at Welaka Fish and Produce Company, Mackey's Ferry, 1952. The photo, a C.J. Belch donation to Port O' Plymouth Museum, is published in the "Marking Time" calendar.

New hours, prices and phone number at the state zoo

The North Carolina Zoological Park in Asheboro has changed its hours of operation, admission prices and phone number.

The zoo is open every day of the year on the following schedule: November 1 - March 31, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and April 1 - October 31, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Admission is $6 for adults, $4 for children ages 2 to 12, and $4 for seniors age 62 and over.

The area code of the zoo's phone number has changed. The number is (910) 879-7000.

The zoo is served by Randolph Electric Membership Corporation.

Person County family wins Good Earth prize

A Person County family won the 1993 Good Earth Family Award given by the National Endowment for Soil and Water Conservation.

Pete and Levon Thomas of Timberlake, along with the families of their daughter and two sons, were honored for their conservation and waste management practices.

The Thomas family farms 1,500 acres they own and 32 rented acres. They grow corn, soybeans, small grains and tobacco and manage a 3,200-head swine operation.

According to the N.C. Department of Agriculture, the farm contains 800 acres of contour strip cropping, field borders, grassed waterways, terraces and rotations with grass. The swine wastes are used as fertilizers.

The Thomas family is served by Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation.

Gifts with a Down East accent

Stay away from pond edges, never go hunting with a vengeful brother-in-law, and by all means always look a gift goose in the mouth and everywhere else!" — from "A Gift Goose" by Eddie Hill.

Such prose decorates three editions of Christmas memoirs published to preserve the culture of North Carolina's "Down East" coastal communities.

The memories, poems and narratives have been collected by "The Mailboat" staff of Harkers Island, and back issues are available.

New this year is a cassette tape recording of "songs of coastal North Carolina." The album "Sounds Like Home" was recorded by Connie Mason, historical researcher based in Beaufort.

Also available is the cookbook "Island Born and Bred: A Collection of Harkers Island Food, Fun, Fact and Fiction."

For ordering information, contact Coastlore, P.O. Box 3, Harkers Island, N.C. 28531. Phone: (919) 728-4644.

Southern farms suffer from drought

As farmers in the upper Mississippi valley counted huge losses from flooding, Southern farmers lamented the Drought of '93.

From Virginia across North and South Carolina and into Georgia, farmers lost their crops this summer to sweltering heat and a lack of rain.

Seventy-three percent of South Carolina's cotton crop is listed in poor condition, along with 58 percent of soybeans. In Virginia, 45 percent of the corn crop and 56 percent of soybeans are classified as poor. Same with 57 percent of North Carolina's corn and 89 percent of Georgia's corn, 69 percent of its cotton and 46 percent of its peanuts.

Around 40 percent of Alabama's farmers lost crops to the heat.

The "adoption" of Edna Kennedy

A 9-year-old Randolph County girl has "adopted" a 77-year-old woman.

A member of the Deep River Helpers 4-H Club, Stephanie "Stevy" Grubb began visiting Edna Kennedy last year during a club project in community service. They took a liking to each other, and the girl "adopted" her elderly friend, who is confined to bed much of the time.

"She teaches me many things, and I tell her all about school and my life," says Stevy, a student at Faith Christian School in Ramseur. "She is kind, loving and gentle, and gives good hugs."

Because of Stevy's introduction, the Grubb family prepares dinner for Mrs. Kennedy on Sundays, says Stevy's mother, Marjie, and neighbors in the community have visited as well, especially at holidays.

"Edna is now our family friend," says Marjie Grubb. "She and Stevy encourage all North Carolina children to try to do the same."

The Grubb family lives in Coleridge and are served by Randolph Electric Membership Corporation.

Carlyle Ferguson of Waynesville, a member of Haywood Electric Membership Corporation, has been named as the Lancaster/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year as one of eight outstanding farmers from the Southeast. He was honored at the Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition, Oct. 19-21 in Moultrie, Ga.

Co-op agency returns $906,504

The National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation this summer returned $906,504 to North Carolina's electric cooperatives.

The cash return, known as patronage capital, is a benefit of borrowing funds from CFC, the national lending cooperative of rural utilities. Funds are allocated to members that have paid interest on their outstanding loans. Loans are issued for improvements in co-op electric systems. The refund effectively reduces the cost of borrowing from CFC.

CFC at present returns patronage capital to member borrowers on a six-year cycle. This year's checks represent retirement of patronage capital from CFC's Fiscal 1987 net margins.

A total of $27.9 million was issued to U.S. co-ops this year, marking a $2.5 million increase over last year's retirement.

All 28 co-ops within Carolina Electric Cooperatives, as well as the state office in Raleigh, received patronage checks in August.

Johnston County farmer wins third wheat-growing contest

For the third year in a row, Johnston County farmer Ronnie Strickland has won the North Carolina wheat-growing contest.

The Selma farmer won the annual contest with a yield of 110.39 bushels per acre, said Dr. Ron Jarrett, Extension small grains specialist at North Carolina State University.

Strickland is the first three-time winner in the 13-year history of the contest. Last year he won the contest with a contest-record yield of just over 124 bushels per acre. As state champ, Strickland will receive a $1,000 cash prize from Northrup King seed company.

Second place went to Phil and Mike McLain of McLain Beef and Grain in Iredell County with a yield of 105.92 bushels per acre, and third place to Darryl Corriher and Tom Hall of C & H Grain in Rowan County with a yield of 102.57 bushels per acre.

"Come All Ye Faithful"

By Linda Kotila

"Come All Ye Faithful," a new signed-and-numbered print by Linda Kotila of Sylva, is part of a series saluting the Jackson County town of Dillsboro and its holiday traditions.

The "Hometown Christmas" series was launched in 1992 with a print also titled, "Hometown Christmas." The scene shows old and new sanctuaries of Jarrett Memorial Baptist Church. To the left is the church's former parsonage, which now houses a shop, Southern Accent.

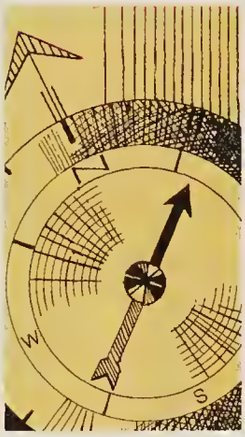
Kotila, a former resident of High Point, continues to market both prints through a High Point gallery.

"Come All Ye Faithful," which measures 10 ⅝ by 17 ¾ inches, is available for $35.
"Hometown Christmas," which is 8 by 17 ½ inches, sells for $30.
Call the gallery for details on artist's proofs and remarqued proofs.

For mail orders, add 6 percent for sales tax
and $10 for shipping and handling.
Send orders to Phylby's Prints, 206 E. Kivett Drive, High Point, N.C. 27260.

For phone orders using major credit cards,
call toll-free: 800 849-8848.

Here, There and Everywhere



Deck the halls!

Core Sound Decoy Festival

Harkers Island, Dec. 4-5

Over 100 decoy carvers and artists, including national blue ribbon winners. Also loon calling contest, children's activities, auction, live raptors and retrievers, home-made Down East food. New this year: the temporary quarters of the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum will be open from 8 to 10 a.m.with refreshments, Portsmouth Island exhibit, and a complete Down East culture gift shop. Contact Core Sound Decoy Guild, P.O. Box 308, Harkers Island, N.C. 28531. Phone: (919) 728-7316.

Gold Mine Christmas

Dec. 5, Georgeville

Reed Gold Mine's state historic site. 19th-century displays, entertainment and underground tours. Contact Kerri Fraley, 9621 Reed Mine Road, Stanfield, N.C. 28163. Phone: (704) 786-8337.

Hillsborough Candlelight Tour

Dec. 5, Hillsborough

Hundreds of luminaries light homes, churches and historic landmarks in Hillsborough. Daniel Boone Antique Village Christmas Crafts show. Contact Hillsborough Area Chamber of Commerce, 228 South Churton St., Hillsborough, N.C. 27278. Phone: (919) 732-8156.

Fort Defiance

Dec. 5, Caldwell County

The 201-year-old home of Revolutionary War General William Lenoir will be open from 2 to 4 p.m. Colonial crafts and music. The house is 12 miles north of Lenoir on Highway 268. Contact Barbara Brady, P.O. Box 686, Lenior, N.C. 28645. Daytime phone: (704) 726-2291.

Blowing Rock Holiday Calendar

Dec. 6-18, Blowing Rock

Gingerbread House exhibit is Dec. 6-17; Horse drawn trolley rides on Dec. 11; Gingerbread House judging and auction on Dec. 17; tour of churches on Dec. 18. Contact Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 406, Blowing Rock, N.C. 28605. Phone: (800) 295-7851.

Executive mansion tou

Dec. 7-12, Raleigh

The governor's mansion will extend its visitation hou for visitors to view holiday decorations. Groups of mor than 10 people should call reservations.

Contact the Visitor Cent 301 North Blount St., Rale N.C. 27611. Phone: (919) 733-3456.

Harmony Hall Christma

Dec. 9-12, White Oak

Harmony Hall, built in 1760 by Col. and Mrs. Jam Richardson, will feature music, singing and an "Avenue of Lights" each night. Contact Myrtle S. Li ingston, Rt. 1, Box 83, Whi Oak, N.C. 28399.

Holiday craft show

Dec. 9-12, 15-19

Haywood Community C lege features a preview of t handcrafted works of area craftspeople Dec. 9-12. The Lambuth Inn at Lake Junaluska hosts the show D 15-18 with final sales on D 19. Contact Haywood Studi Freedlander Dr., Clyde, N.C 28721-9454. Phone: (704) 627-2821.

Coastal Carolina Christmas

Dec. 10, Beaufort

Guided tours of six authe tically restored and furnishe homes and public buildings Food, entertainment, door prizes, a decorated boat parade and narrated and ca oling tours. Contact Lianne Keeny, P.O. Box 1709, Beau fort, N.C. 28516-0363. Phone: (919) 728-5225.

own East Christmas rafts

ec. 10-12, Aurora

The Aurora Community enter hosts this Christmas aft show which features orcelain dolls, baskets, ained glass, pottery, western ear, designer sweatshirts, oss stitching, Christmas naments, a barbecue dinner d Christmas parade. Con- ct Darnell Smith, Route 2 x 120, Aurora, N.C. 27806. one: (919) 322-4888.

ristmas Open House

c. 10-12, Mount Pleasant

The Eastern Cabarrus His- ic Museum is decorated for season in various Christ- s themes. Contact Frances il, P.O. Box 1299, Mount asant, N.C. 28124. Phone: 04) 436-9823.

letide in the early uth

c. 11-12, Winston-Salem

The Museum of Early thern Decorative Arts fea- es a variety of early, south- Christmas customs. Over 00 artifacts are on display ng with examples of old- ioned celebrations and er period trimmings. Con- MESDA Yuletide, P.O. 10310, Winston-Salem, . 27108. Phone: (919) -7360.

arles Dickens istmas

. 11-12, Concord

abarrus County court- se decorated, dance per- ances in the auditorium. chamber ballet will per- "Coppellia." Characters "A Christmas Carol" will l around downtown. Con- Ann Way, P.O. Box 966. cord, N.C. 28026. Phone:) 786-8515.

Holiday Highlight

Dec. 11-12, Concord

Drive through Frank Liske Park, lit by luminaries, decorated trees and Christmas figures. Christmas music and hot air balloons by the lake. Contact Mike Murphy, P.O. Box 707, Concord, N.C. 28026-0707. Phone: (704) 788-6150.

Old Salem Christmas

Dec. 18, Winston-Salem

Costumed interpreters provide visitors with a glimpse into the holiday customs of Old Salem. Each building will be decorated in the Moravian tradition, with simple greenery, decorated pyramids and illuminations. For tickets or more information write Salem Christmas, Box F, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27108. Or call (919) 721-7352.

Toys...Yesterday and Today

Through Dec. 30, Albemarle

Local residents present antique and contemporary dolls, bears and toys from their personal collections. Contact Albemarle-Stanly County Historic Preservation Commission, 112 North Third Street, Albemarle, N.C. 28001. Phone: (919) 983-7316.

Toys were us

Through Jan. 9, 1994, Dallas

The Gaston County Museum presents an exhibit of antique toys. Contact Cecilia Benoy, P.O. Box 429, Dallas, N.C. 28034-0429. Phone: (704) 922-7681.

Ackland shows "Six by Siskind"

Through Jan. 2, Chapel Hill

The Ackland Art Museum will exhibit six Aaron Siskind photographs from its permanent collection. Contact Ackland Art Museum, 210 Pittsboro St., Campus Box 6210, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27599-6210. Phone: (919) 962-2091.

Yoruba Art: A Living Tradition

Through June 12, 1994, Raleigh

The North Carolina Museum of Art hosts "Yoruba Art: A Living Tradition" which focuses on the traditional arts of the Yoruba-speaking people of Nigeria and the Republic of Benin. Admission is free. Contact Elizabeth Holloway, 2110 Blue Ridge Road, Raleigh, N.C. 27607-6494. Phone: (919) 833-1935.

"Army Town: Greensboro 1943-1946"

Through Nov. 11, 1995, Greensboro

The Greensboro Historical Museum presents a new exhibit which recalls the more than 330,000 soldiers who came through Greensboro's wartime Army Air Force base. Two galleries include nearly 400 objects, photographs, newspapers letters and memorabilia from the era. Contact the Greensboro Historical Museum, 130 Summit Ave., Greensboro, N.C. 27401-3004. Phone: (910) 373-2043.

Deadlines

Deadlines for submitting notices to "Here, There and Everywhere."

February issue....Dec. 25
March issue.....Jan. 25
April issue.....Feb. 25

We welcome photos and illustrations of coming events. Send notices to Calendar, Carolina Country, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, N.C. 27611.

"Brothers and sisters,
I want to tell you this.
The greatest thing on earth
is to have the love of God
in your heart, and the next
greatest thing is to have
electricity in your house."

Farmer giving witness in a rural church in the early 1940s.

Here's to all the men and women who helped bring electricity to r
North Carolina. Through the power of cooperation, they broke a cycle of la
that had been handed down from generation to generation because there was

icity. Today, we have a new challenge: to meet the energy needs of a growing population. We
o it. And we can do it with responsible use of our resources. But we're going to need that
spirit of cooperation that helped turn on the lights over 50 years ago.

EMC

A Member of Carolina Electric Cooperatives Serving 1.6 Million Consumers In 95 North Carolina Count

Federal overhaul affects co-ops

The Clinton Administration's overhaul of the federal government has reached the nation's electric cooperatives.

For consumers, it will be business as usual at their local electric cooperative. But, behind the scenes, the country's 1,000 consumer-owned electric co-ops will see changes in the way they do business.

Congress passed legislation in October that changes the way electric cooperatives get the money they need for construction and other projects.

The law, signed by President Clinton in early November, also opens the door for co-ops to borrow government money to bring water and sewer systems, housing or new businesses to their rural communities.

It "sets the stage for a profound change in the relationship between rural electric cooperatives and the communities they serve," said Bob Bergland, executive vice president of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

"Co-ops are well suited to take on non-electric community development projects."
– Bob Bergland

Traditionally, consumer-owned co-ops borrowed money from the federal Rural Electrification Administration (REA). In most cases, they paid 5 percent interest on those loans, which covered 70 percent of the cost of their projects. The co-ops borrowed the other 30 percent from non-government lenders, such as the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corp.

Some co-ops, including some in North Carolina, may still be able to qualify for 5 percent loans, because the new law allows for so-called "hardship" cases. In general, they are co-ops whose consumer base contains predominantly low household income levels compared to other parts of the state, or where a co-op's rates are considerably higher than rates of neighboring utilities.

REA will still lend money to other co-ops under the new legislation, but at a different interest rate than in the past. Those co-ops will pay the same interest that utilities owned by city governments pay on their loans. Co-ops serving thinly populated areas with fewer than 5.5 consumers per mile of line will not pay more than 7 percent interest, even if the municipal rate rises during the course of the loan. Co-ops serving more densely populated areas will see interest charges determined according to whether the disparity between their rate per kilowatt hour and the rates of neighboring utilities qualifies the co-op as a "hardship" case. For co-ops serving more than 17 consumers per mile, there will be no 7 percent cap.

Among North Carolina's 28 electric co-ops, the average is eight members per mile of line.

Still, because today's interest rates are low, co-ops don't expect the interest rate increase to affect the prices their consumers pay for electricity. "If they were doubling interest rates it would be another thing, but they're not," said Jim Morriss, manager of Texas Electric Cooperatives.

Early in 1993, President Clinton proposed that only hardship cases continue to get a limited number of government loans. The new law makes government loans available to all electric cooperatives. And it increases the amount of money available for lending: $125 million is available in fiscal year 1994 for hardship loans, and another $600 millio is available for lending at the municipal interest rate. Combined, that's $100 mil lion more than was available last year.

The new approach will cost taxpayer 43 percent less than the traditional REA lending program. In fiscal year 1993, th government's subsidy for rural electric co-ops was $117 million, according to Mike Ganley, economic and policy analyst at NRECA. During the current fiscal year, which began October 1, the subsid will be $66 million.

"We recognize these are very difficult times in terms of the federal budget," said Ganley. "We feel like we've done ou part to help in that regard."

Congress approved the legislation as Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy made plans to reorganize the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the agency that houses REA

Espy proposed to merge all government lending for electric and telephone cooperatives with programs for rural water and sewer service into a reconfigured Rural Utilities Service.

Bergland and others have endorsed th overall plan, saying community-based rural electric co-ops are well suited to take on non-electric community develop ment projects. He counted jobs creation and water and waste management amon those needs.

— Rural Electric News Service

How to Watch Your Watts

What does it cost you to run your automatic dishwasher each month? How about a hair dryer. The table below may help you budget your use of common household electrical appliances. These costs are calculated at a rate 8.3¢ per kilowatt-hour. Use the rate your cooperative charges you per kilowatt-hour to determine more closely the approximate costs for the appliances listed.

	Avg. watts	Hours per month	Kwh per month	Avg. cost month	Avg. cost hour
ood Preparation					
arbecue Grill	1,350	4	5.4	45¢	11¢
lender	390	3	1.2	10¢	3¢
roiler	1,440	6	8.6	72¢	12¢
offee Maker	900	10	9	75¢	7¢
eep Fat Fryer	1,450	5	7.3	60¢	12¢
ishwasher	1,200	25	30	$2.49	10¢
ry Pan	1,200	13	15.6	$1.29	10¢
rill (sandwich)	1,160	3	3.5	29¢	10¢
ot Plate (single)	660	6	4	33¢	5¢
icrowave Oven	1,450	15	21.8	$1.81	12¢
ixer	125	8	1	8¢	1¢
ange	11,610		100	$8.30	
Baking Element	3,000				25¢
Broiling Element	3,000				25¢
Sm. Surface Unit (6")	1,250				10¢
Lg. Surface Unit (8")	2,100				17¢
Self Clean (per cycle)	2,260				19¢
oaster	1,330	13	17.3	$1.44	11¢
oaster	1,150	3	3.5	29	10¢
ash Compactor	1,100	1	1.1	9	9¢
affle Iron	1,120	2	2.2	19¢	9¢
aste Disposer	450	7	3.2	26¢	4¢
od Preservation					
eezer (w/ frost)					
5 cubic feet			120	$9.96	
8 cubic feet			160	$13.28	
od Freezer (frost-free)					
5 cubic feet			180	$14.94	
8 cubic feet			240	$19.92	
frig-Freezer (w/ frost)					
2 cubic feet	240	250	60	$4.98	
4 cubic feet	330	250	82.5	$6.85	
frig-Freezer (frost-free)					
4 cubic feet	610	262	159.8	$13.27	
8 cubic feet	720	262	188.6	$15.66	
1 cubic feet	750	262	196.5	$16.31	
me Entertainment					
dio	70	100	7	58¢	1¢
dio-Phonograph	100	90	9	75¢	1¢
reo Amplifier	150	70	10.5	87¢	1¢
evision (color)					
ube Type	300	185	55.5	$4.61	2¢
olid State	200	185	37	$3.07	2¢

	Avg. watts	Hours per month	Kwh per month	Avg. cost month	Avg. cost hour
Laundry					
Clothes Dryer	5,000	16	80	$6.64	42¢
Iron	1,000	12	12	$1.00	8¢
Washer (automatic)	500	20	10	83¢	4¢
Washer (manual)	290	20	5.8	48¢	2¢
Health					
Hair Curler	400				3¢
Hair Dryer	1,000				8¢
Heat Lamp-infrared	250				2¢
Heating Pad	650				5¢
Lighting-100 watt	100				1¢
Shaver	150				1¢
Sun Lamp	280				2¢
Comfort Conditioning					
Room Air Conditioner (Energy Efficiency Rating = 7.0)					
6,000 BTU	860		*Cost*		7¢
9,000 BTU	1,290		*per hour*		11¢
12,000 BTU	1,720		*of continuous*		14¢
18,000 BTU	2,580		*operation*		21¢
Small Electric Heater	1,000				8¢
Fan					
Attic	450				4¢
Portable	150				1¢
Window	190				2¢
Dehumidifier	260	120	31.2	$2.59	2¢
Elect Blanket (yr.)	180	630	113.4	$9.41	1¢
Humidifier	120	120	14.4	$1.20	1¢
Water Heater	4,500	100	450	$37.35	37¢
Miscellaneous					
Sewing Machine	75	15	1.1	9¢	1¢
Pool Pump ⅓HP	250	730	182.5	$15.15	2¢
Vacuum Cleaner	630	6	3.8	31¢	5¢
Water Pump ½HP	250	40	10	83¢	2¢
Water Pump 1½HP	1,120	40	44.8	$3.72	9¢
Lawn Mower	1,000				8¢

Figures on appliance wattages, hours used and kilowatt-hours are based on data obtained from the Energy Services Department at Potomac Electric Power Company, Washington, D.C. Wattages for pumps are based on the horsepower rating of 1 H.P. = 746 watts.

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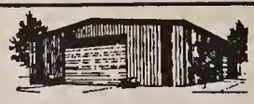

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50x75x10	$9,246
60x100x12	$14,465
100x150x16 (w/column)	$32,815

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Stop Looking – Save $$$
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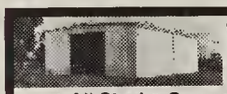

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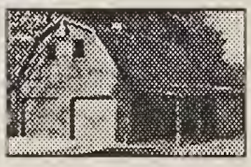

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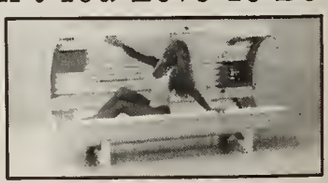

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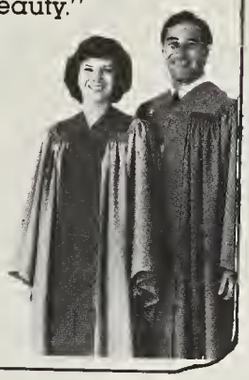

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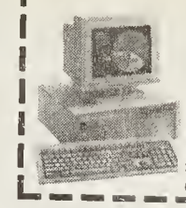

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Hank's Gardening Guide

by Hank Smith

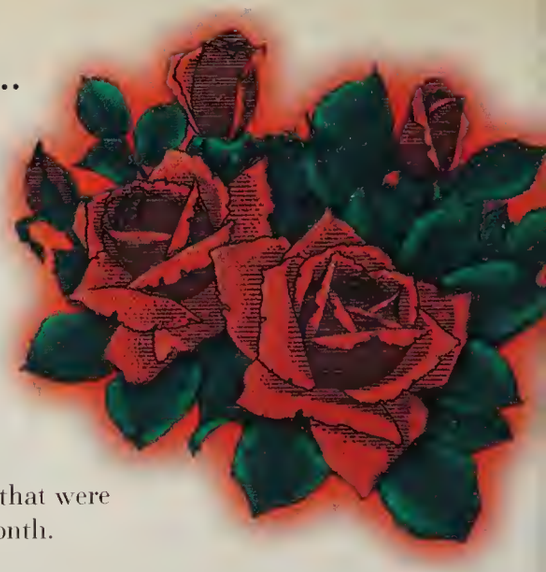
Many seasonal decorations are right at our back door.

In winter, gardening activities outside are slowed by the cooler weather, but there remain many jobs to be done.

Planting is in full swing with container-grown, bare-root, and balled-and-burlapped nursery stock. In many cases, trees and shrubs that were root-pruned last summer in preparation for winter planting need to be moved to their new locations in the landscape. Except at the higher altitudes of the mountains, woody plants put out now will have a much better chance to get established and off to a good start. Usually, such plantings have a better chance when set out in the spring in mountainous areas.

Many seasonal decorations are right at our back door. The fun of collecting and using such greenery adds much enjoyment to the holiday season.

Roses



A wide variety of roses should be available in garden centers and nurseries this time of year. For best results, select only No. 1 grade bushes.

Plant in beds that were prepared last month.

Plant tulips

Now's the time to get those tulip bulbs in the ground, using those bulbs that have been cooling in the refrigerator for the last six to eight weeks. They should go in the ground when removed from the refrigerator. If not planted immediately, they will lose the benefits of the cooling treatment.

For the most eye-catching display in the spring, plant bulbs in groups of 12 or more, all in the same color.

Winter watering

Check all evergreens to be sure they are not suffering from lack of moisture in the soil.

Broadleaf evergreens subjected to blowing winds will lose considerable moisture through their foliage. This moisture must be replaced b the root system from water within the soil. If the soil is dry, let water run slowly fro the hose until the area arou the root zone is thoroughly moist. A soaker hose is very helpful.

Pruning

Pruning should be limited to thinning and mild shaping to get trees and shrubs ready for winter weather ahead. Leave the severe pruning until late winter just before the plants will be putting out new growth.

Even slow-growing boxwood benefits from a yearly pruning. This usually is a light tip-pruning, in order to train the plant into a stocky, compact specimen. The center portion of the plant must receive air and light or it will die back and the stems will become weak. In many cases, much of the trouble with old declining boxwoods can be traced back to a lack of pruning over the years.

Boxwood pruning can be done any time the weather is suitable for working outdoo Tip-pruning may be done now, giving the bonus of fragrant boxwood clippings for use in holiday decorations. Cut tips back to a side bran that will grow into a new cluster of leaflets.

When cutting holly, distribute pruning evenly over the entire tree. Using sharp pruners, make clean cuts. Leave stubs one to two inch long to assure new growth i the spring. This growth will hide the cuts. If twigs are cu flush with the branches, litt or no new growth will appea from the cuts. This will leav bare spots in the plant and reduce next year's crop of berries.

Christmas trees

With all the emphasis on improving our environment, you may wish to consider using a living Christmas tree. Instead of being discarded after Christmas, the tree can go into a tub on your patio, or you may have an ideal spot for it in the yard landscape plan.

Select either a narrow leaf or broadleaf evergreen that is known to grow well in our area.

Winter hints

1. Some newly planted trees may need to be wrapped with a tree wrap tape to prevent sun scald.
2. If not already done, test soils and lime lawn if needed.
3. Work organic matter such as leaves, compost, and peat into vegetable and flower gardens.
4. Keep poinsettias watered and away from heating vents, fireplaces, wood stoves and the tops of TVs which generate warmth.
5. Remove old vegetable debris to destroy overwintering insects.
6. If your soil is red clay, mix a shovel of fine pine bark mulch in the planting hole of a container-grown plant.
7. If not done last month, fertilize cool season lawn grasses.
8. Enjoy the birds in your winter garden by hanging a feeder outside a window for a close-up view.
9. Begin preparing beds for spring planting by turning the soil to destroy grass and weed seeds. This also brings insects to the surface so birds can eat them or winter temperatures destroy them.
10. Order vegetable seed for early spring crops as cabbage, snow peas, onions, cauliflower, carrots, and radishes.

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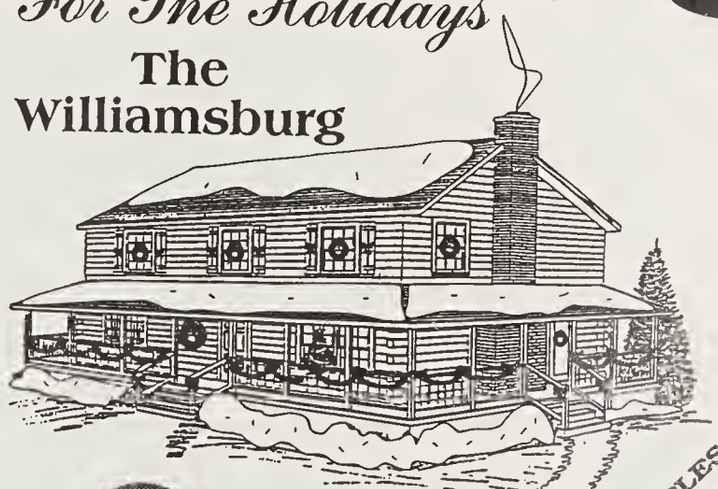

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Journal

by Owen Bishop

A prayer and some advice.

To brighten all your seasons

To mark this holiday season, I offer you a prayer and a bit of advice: three unrelated items retrieved from my files that contain no particular Yuletide theme. Two of them came to my attention during this season, but all three struck me as especially meaningful for this time of the year. I offer them here with the hope that they might brighten the holidays ahead and enrich your life through all its seasons.

This prayer, originally published under the title, "The Collect for Club Women," will be familiar to readers who are active in the Extension Homemaker Clubs because it has been used by these organizations for many years.

I first saw it in a cookbook published by the Surry County Extension Homemakers, and I inquired about it at the Cooperative Extension Service office in Dobson. Elaine W. Whitaker, assistant home economics Extension agent, provided a brief history of the collect.

It was penned by Mary Stewart of Longmont, Calif., in 1904, as a personal prayer and without any organization in mind.

Later, she dedicated it to "women working together" because she felt they might need a "special petition and meditation of their own." Since then, it has been used by women's organizations throughout the world.

The collect was first published in a popular women's magazine called "The Delineator," and later appeared on wall cards. The first women's organization to use it was the General Federation of Women's Clubs. It was also used regularly by the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, which Miss Stewart helped organize in 1919.

The author died in 1943.

A Prayer

Keep us, oh God, from pettiness: let us be large in thought, in word, in deed.

Let us be done with fault-finding and leave off self-seeking.

May we put away all pretense and meet each other face to face without self-pity and without prejudice.

May we never be hasty in judgment and always generous.

Let us take time for all things; make us to grow calm, serene and gentle.

Teach us to put into action our better impulses, straightforward, and unafraid.

Grant that we may realize it is the little things that create differences, that in the big things of life we are at one.

And may we strive to touch and to know the great, common human heart of us all, and, oh Lord God, let us forget not to be kind!

This item was prepared as a Christmas message when I first encountered it, but its advice is utterly timeless.

It was distributed as an anonymous holiday message, printed in red ink on green per, during a pre-Christmas open house two years ago at Haywood Hall, a historic use near the Old Capitol in Raleigh. The home was built in 1799 by State Treasurer hn Haywood, who made it his residence for 40 years. It was continuously occupied his family and their descendants until 1977. Since then it has been maintained and own by the Colonial Dames of North Carolina. (For information about tours, call 9-832-4158.)

Mend a Quarrel

Mend a quarrel.
Seek out a forgotten friend.
Dismiss suspicion, and replace it with trust.
Write a love letter.
Share some treasure.
Give a soft answer.
Encourage youth.
Manifest your loyalty in word and deed.
Keep a promise.
Find the time.
Forgo a grudge.
Forgive an enemy.
Listen.
Apologize if you were wrong.
Try to understand.
Flout envy.
Examine your demands on others.
Think first of someone else.
Appreciate.
Be kind; be gentle.
Laugh a little.
Laugh a little more.
Deserve confidence.
Take up arms against malice.
Decry complacency.
Express your gratitude.
Go to church.
Welcome a stranger.
Gladden the heart of a child.
Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth.
Speak your love.
Speak it again.
Speak it still once again.

w this item in another rural electric statewide magazine, Living in South Carolina, December 1990. Editor Larry Cribb reprinted it in his column, describing this iam Arthur Ward piece as one of his favorite quotations. He said he was sharing it his readers in the spirit of the holiday season, when "we especially want to share l things with friends and loved ones."

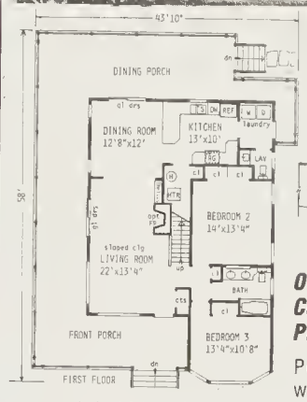
It Only Takes a Minute

ou can make two persons happier in next few minutes.
imply telephone someone who has ed and enriched your life and say: grateful for your friendship." That u will be happier, and so will you.
ratitude works wonders. Have you seen a really joyful person who was illed with gratitude? Have you ever a miserable, self-centered person was truly grateful?
harles Dickens once wrote, "Reflect your present blessings, of which man has many; not on your past rtunes, of which all men have ."

It only takes a minute to begin reflecting on our present blessings:

the gift of life itself.
the warmth of friendships.
the riches of good health.
the power of love.
the privilege of prayer.
the joys of music.
the satisfaction of work.
the treasures of books.
the beauty of art.
the miracle of spring.
the grace of God.

Be more grateful, and you will become more joyful.



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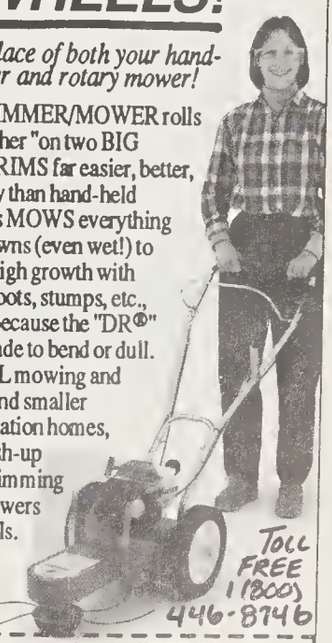

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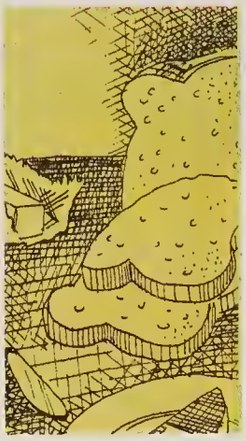

A holiday cake.

Cranberry-Apple Cake

Submitted by Bill Van Duren, Elizabeth City

- 6 tablespoons butter or margarine
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3 eggs
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 5 cups apples, peeled and diced
- 1 cup cranberries
- ½ cup chopped nuts, walnuts or pecans

Cream butter or margarine and sugar. Add eggs and mix well. Sift dr ingredients together. Add to creamed mixture. Stir in apples, cranberrie nuts and vanilla. Mixture will be thick; mix until the batter can be pour into baking pan. Pour into a greased and floured (with cornmeal) 9-inc by 13-inch pan. Sprinkle cranberries on top and bake at 350 degrees fo 40 to 45 minutes. Cake should be refrigerated. (Recipe can be made without cranberries using 6 cups of diced apples.)

I'm 74 years young and have been baking since about age 16. I have made this recipe many times as a thank you gift. —Bill Van Duren

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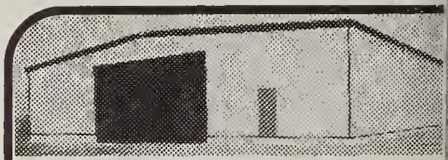

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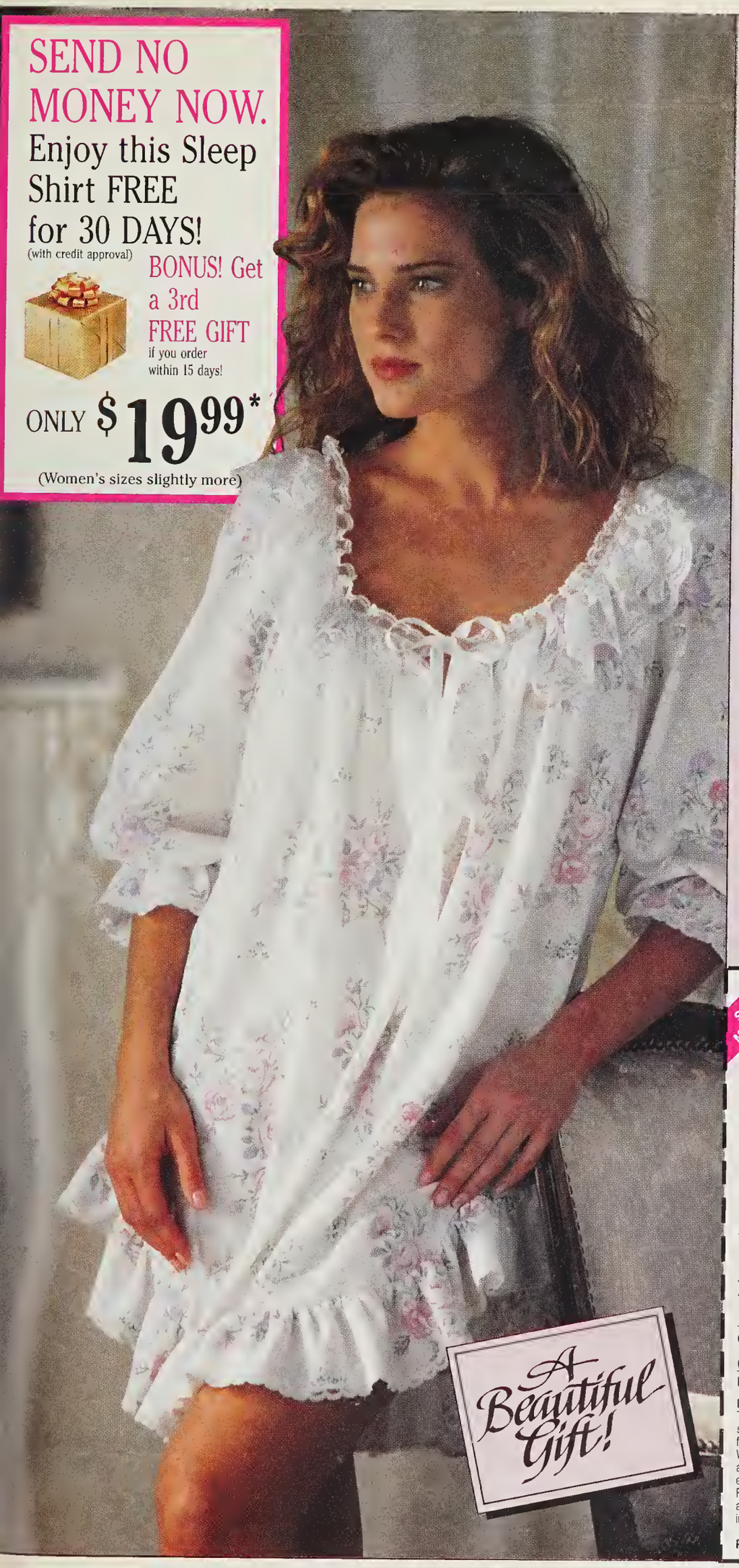

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Check desired size:

Misses' (U0540): ☐ S(8-10) ☐ M(12-14) ☐ L(16-18)

Women's (U7615): ☐ 1X(18W-20W) ☐ 2X(22W-24W) ☐ 3X(26W-28W)

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HOME PHONE DATE

If I am delighted with my Sleep Shirt at the end of my 30-day Free Trial, I agree to pay the cash price of $19.99 ($24.99 for Women's sizes) plus shipping and handling (total cash price of $26.97; $31.95 for Women's sizes) in 3 monthly payments of $8.99 ($10.65 for Women's sizes) each. Sales or use tax will be added where applicable. I understand that I may return the Sleep Shirt at my expense if I am not completely satisfied at the end of my 30-day Free Trial. The Free Gifts are mine to keep. This order is subject to approval of my credit by Fingerhut. Offer good in USA only, including APO/FPO.

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